

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, September 15, 2006

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING IN DC HITS A RECORD LOW RATE ... AGAIN

For the second time in the past three months, “aggressive speeding” has reached a new record low rate on roadways monitored by photo radar cameras in DC. During August 2006, just 1.7 percent of all vehicles traveling through photo radar enforcement zones were found to be speeding aggressively – that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. The previous record low rate was 1.9 percent in June 2006. The drop in aggressive speeding in August continues a five-year trend of dramatically reduced speeding. Whereas 25.5 percent of motorists in August 2001 were speeding aggressively, that number dropped to just 3 percent in August 2005, before falling to 1.7 percent last month. Fewer than 1 in 58 motorists in photo radar enforcement zones were found to be speeding aggressively during August 2006; that compares with almost 1 in 3 motorists when the program in the summer of 2001. During August 2006, nearly 2.4 million vehicles passed through enforcement zones monitored by the District's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras, but only about 41,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. Average speeds of all vehicles traveling on DC roadways continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 27.3 mph in August 2006—down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, just over 2 million photo radar Notices of Infraction have been mailed and nearly 1.54 million have been paid, resulting in fines of more than \$116 million. This level of consistent speeding enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

- ① Access the latest photo radar statistics at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548110,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,31886|.asp
- ① For information on the locations of photo radar enforcement zones, click on:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547991,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,31886|.asp
- ① Red-light running at the 49 DC intersections equipped with traffic safety cameras has declined nearly 68 percent over the course of the program. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

NEXT LATINO COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 23

For the third time this year, the MPDC's Latino Advisory Council will sponsor a Public Safety Community Meeting on Saturday, September 23, at the Brightwood Elementary School, 1300 Nicholson Street, NW. The event, which runs from 9:30 am-12 noon, will be conducted in Spanish, with English interpretation provided. The purpose of the gathering is to promote greater communication between DC's Latino residents and the MPDC, with a special focus on violent crimes against Latinos. After a short breakfast, various speakers will address issues such as “How to Avoid Becoming a Crime Victim,” “Coming Forward: Being a Witness,” and “Latino Gangs and the Law.” Latino residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns they might have about police operations through the presentations. The meeting is the third in a series of quarterly community assemblies with Latinos that are being held in different parts of the city. The assemblies are similar in format to the monthly meetings held in Police Service Areas throughout the city. The MPDC's Latino Advisory Council consists of community, government, and police representatives, including the Council of Latino Agencies, Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham's Office, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, Neighborhood Services for Wards 1 and 4, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, the DC Department of Human Services' Income Maintenance Administration, MPD's Latino Liaison Unit, and the Third and Fourth District Commanders. For additional information on the event, contact the Latino Liaison Unit at (202) 673-4445.

- ① Read the full news release — in English and Spanish — at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9612/year/2006>
- ① Learn more about the organization and services of the Latino Liaison Unit at
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,540963,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,31417|.asp

OFFICERS WHO SOLVED BURGLARIES AMONG SEPTEMBER'S "OFFICERS OF THE MONTH"

This past August, Sixth District Officers Diosvani Rodriguez and Jean-Paul Paskalis were on patrol in the 200 block of 56th Street, NE, when they observed a red pickup truck carrying a brand new HVAC unit. The officers noticed cut copper pipes protruding from the HVAC system, indicating that the unit may have been stolen. The officers stopped the vehicle and notified Officers Kevin Whaley and Robert Kacelowitz, of the PSA 602 Burglary Team. An investigation revealed the HVAC unit was stolen, and the officers were able to identify an address on 56th Street, NE, which was under renovation, as possibly containing multiple HVAC units. Officers Whaley and Kacelowitz then contacted Officer Paul Kurgan of the MPDC's Environmental Crimes Unit. During a visit to the address, Officer Kurgan determined that the property owner was in violation of several construction requirements. Based on the developing information, the officers were able to gain access to the property. Once inside, they determined that the entire residence was a haven for stolen property. Victims from several construction sites where burglaries had occurred were contacted, and stolen property from other construction sites was identified. Further investigation determined that the owner of the 56th Street, NE, residence was aware that he was purchasing stolen property. He was subsequently arrested and charged with Felony Receiving Stolen Property. For their coordinated efforts in stopping this construction burglary pattern and returning valuable property totaling up to \$100,000 to their owners, these five officers were recognized during the September CHAMPS Awards ceremony. They were among 20 MPDC members honored during this month's ceremony.

REGIONAL EXERCISE DEMONSTRATES COMPATIBILITY OF PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEMS

As part of National Preparedness Month, first responders from across the National Capital Region (NCR) conducted an exercise this past week to test the compatibility of their radio systems. Local, state and federal first responders – including the MPDC, the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department and the DC Emergency Management Agency – participated in the regional exercise, held at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center in Alexandria. Other exercise participants included firefighters, police officers and others from the city of Alexandria; Arlington County; Fairfax County; Frederick County; Loudoun County; Montgomery County; Prince George's County; Prince William County; Maryland State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Virginia State Police; Virginia Department of Transportation; the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The exercise tested the NCR's Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan. This plan, which is mandated by the US Department of Homeland Security, describes the operational policies for how first responders across the NCR communicate with one another by radio during a terrorist strike or natural disaster. The exercise followed the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. More than \$34 million in federal Homeland Security grants under the Urban Area Security Initiative have helped to further develop the region's interoperable communications systems since 9/11.

NEWS & NOTES

More CCTV Cameras Announced. The MPDC this week announced the planned deployment of 10 more Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras designed to help combat crime in DC neighborhoods. Once the installation of the new cameras is completed, the MPD will have a total of 35 CCTV cameras for combating neighborhood crime, with a total of 48 cameras planned by the end of September. Details at <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9661/year/2006>.

Chatting with the Chief. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from the public on Tuesday, September 19, from 7:15-7:30 pm, on WHUR 96.3-FM.

① Read about all of their outstanding actions at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,561032,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

① CHAMPS, which stands for Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service, is a monthly awards program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, in appreciation and support of the MPDC's service to the community. This month's luncheon was held September 6 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Southwest.

① This week, public, private sector and nonprofit officials from across the National Capital Region adopted a strategic plan for regional homeland security. The plan will direct regional disaster planning and preparations for the next three to five years. Details at:

http://www.mwccog.org/news/press/detail.asp?NEWS_ID=223

① During Preparedness Month, DC residents are encouraged to stay informed by signing up for the Alert DC program. Learn more at:
<http://alert.dc.gov/eic/site/default.asp>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 9/15/06

- 2006: 122
- 2005: 137
- % Change: -10.9%
- Closure Rate: 50.8% (62 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 9/9/06

- Total: 1,025
- Weapons: 15
- Robbery: 22
- Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 12
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 28
- Narcotics: 176

Juvenile Activity week end. 9/9/06

- Total Arrests: 55
- Robbery: 6
- Weapons: 1
- Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6
- Curfew Violators: 245

Firearm Recoveries as of 9/13/06

- September: 63
- 2006 Total: 1,689

Traffic Fatalities as of 9/15/06

- 2006: 30
- 2005: 35
- % Change: -14.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.